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Doc Code: Computer

pages of specification

and/or sequence listing

and/or table

Doc Code: Artifact

content unspecified or combined

Doc Code: Artifact

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Artifact Type Code: P

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Artifact Type Code: S

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Artifact Type Code: U

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Stapled Set(s) Color Documents or B/W Photographs

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Microfilm(s)

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Model(s)

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Bound Document(s)

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*Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.*

*Therefore, this*

United States Patent

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*If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.*

*If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.*

*Bence Lehman*

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*Pamela Morton*

Attest



US005845300A

**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,845,300****Comer et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 1, 1998**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUGGESTING COMPLETIONS FOR A PARTIALLY ENTERED DATA ITEM BASED ON PREVIOUSLY-ENTERED, ASSOCIATED DATA ITEMS**

[75] **Inventors:** Ross Ward Comer, Bothell; Adam Brett Stein, Bellevue; David Russell Williams, Jr., Issaquah, all of Wash.

[73] **Assignee:** Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Wash.

[21] **Appl. No.:** 658,798

[22] **Filed:** Jun. 5, 1996

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... G06F 17/27

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... 707/508

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 707/503-508

[56] **References Cited**

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Quicken Version 5 for Windows, manufactured by Intuit, Inc. It is Applicants understanding that this product provides an automatic entry for data items in a fixed data structure environment. Based on the Copyright notice of 1985-1995, this reference may have been available for purchase more than 1 year prior to the filing date of Jun. 5, 1996. (4 pages).

Microsoft Access for Windows '95, manufactured by Microsoft Corporation. It is Applicants understanding that this product provides automatic capability for selecting data entries from a pre-defined or fixed list. Based on the Copyright notice of 1989-1995 this reference may have been available for purchase more than 1 year prior to the filing date of Jun. 5, 1996. (4 pages).

Microsoft Money Version 3.0. Manufactured by Microsoft Corporation. It is Applicant's understanding that this product contains an automatic data entry feature, and has been available for purchase more than 1 year prior to the filing date of Jun. 5, 1996. (no pages).

**Primary Examiner**—Anton Fetting

**Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Jones & Askew, LLP

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A system for improving the efficiency and reliability of entering data into a database or spreadsheet computer program by providing suggested completions to the data entry operator. The operator invokes an edit mode (200) for a particular data area and a dynamic list of possible completions is generated (210) based on other data items associated with the edited data area. The list of possible completions is dynamic because it changes to reflect the status of the current data within the database or spreadsheet. As the operator enters characters of a data item (220), the list of completed data items is searched for an entry that matches the entered data item (230). If a match is found then the matching item is displayed to the data entry operator as a suggested completion (240). The data entry operator can then elect to accept the suggested completion (250) or to continue entering the data item.

**38 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets**

